Cuba Will Buy 1000 More Buses, British Suppliers of 400 Reveal

By Flora Lewis

LONDON, Feb. 3—Leyland Motors announced today that Cuba had signed an option to buy another 1000 buses in the next four years.

The first consignment of the 400 buses Leyland sold Havana early last month is due for delivery in July. Leyland will also send an expert to Cuba to teach maintenance.

Despite strong United States complaints, the British government has refused to consider non-strategic trade with Cuba as anything but good business.

A Board of Trade spokesman, asked to confirm the option for the new order, said tartly that he wondered when it would be possible to persuade people that the government had nothing to do with trading plans of private firms. He said it had no information.

In the House of Commons, an opposition member asked whether the government has received any representations from the United States on the bus sales.

Peter Thomas of the Foreign Office replied that there had been none. He said the United States had been informed about negotiation of the bus sales contract last October and "there were subsequent discussions with them on this subject."

Ronald Ellis, general sales manager of Leyland's, told questioners: "The Americans were very critical, in a friendly way. They told us what they thought—that they disapproved strongly—and we listened. But they weren't belligerent about it, and took no action against us in any way."

Except for the continuance of United States aid shipments to Indonesia, which the British government dislikes, London's official policy is that trade and credit should not be restricted for political reasons.